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REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct the term "artillery" to --artery--.

Claim 8 has been amended to correct the typographical error noted by the Office. Removal of the objection to the claim is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-6, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schneider et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,322,518) (hereinafter: "Schneider"). Claims 1-9, 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima (U.S. 2002/01286044) (hereinafter: "Nakajima").

Without admitting the propriety of the Office's positions in these rejections, independent claims 1 and 26 have been amended to reflect the allowable subject matter kindly suggested by the Office on page 6, lines 8 to 10, of the Action. Specifically, claims 1 and 26 have been amended to include a recitation directed to elements 16 of Fig. 5, i.e., "wherein a front portion and a rear portion of the body [of the hemostasis valve] are each formed as a large-diameter portion having a diameter larger than an inside diameter of a rear end of the opening taper portion".

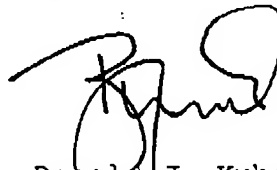
Removal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of the claims is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Withdrawn claims 11 to 19, 21, 23, and 25 have been canceled without prejudice to applicant's rights under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 121 to the filing of a divisional application.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated April 10, 2007.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension and any additional fees that may be required may be charged to Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,
KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK



Ronald J. Kubovcik
Reg. No. 25,401

Atty. Case No. NPR-152
The Farragut Building
Suite 710
900 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 887-9023
Fax: (202) 887-9093
RJK/JBF